

WORKPLAN

I. PROJECT TITLE AND PROJECT PURPOSE STATEMENT

Project Title: Duck Island Healthy Homes and Neighborhood Initiative

A neighborhood re-development collaborative that brings together community stakeholders (e.g., residents, businesses, churches, institutions, and government agencies) in a collaborative process of data gathering and education, followed by consensus priority-setting and action plan development to address significant environmental and health concerns relating to healthy housing and a health-promoting community in Duck Island. The goal is to develop a sustainable environmental focused collaboration that leverages the resources available to this uniquely situated community. The neighborhood is facing new housing development pressures that have the potential to positively or negatively impact the existing disadvantaged residents. We have the opportunity to leverage new interest in the neighborhood to address existing health issues related to housing and benefit the environmental health of the entire community.

Project Location: Duck Island Neighborhood, Cleveland, OH 44113

Project Partners with MOAs:

Elected Official: Councilman Joe Cimperman

University Partner: Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative at Kent State University

Community Development Corporation: Tremont West Community Development Corporation

Relevant Environmental Statute: Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a): conduct research, development, monitoring, public education, training, demonstration projects, and studies on toxic substances. We will specifically be providing education and training on toxic substances found in unhealthy homes, including lead and asthma triggers.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL AND/OR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Local Environmental and Health Issues Addressed by the Project

We will address the public health issue of unhealthy housing, and related environmental issues relevant to housing and healthy communities, in the Duck Island Neighborhood. For over 30 years Environmental Health Watch (EHW) has worked on research, demonstration, assistance, and community organizing efforts to address environmental health problems (e.g., lead poisoning, asthma, COPD, pesticide poisoning, etc.) caused or aggravated by exposures in substandard housing and disadvantaged communities. We have developed a comprehensive framework for creating **healthy housing in a health promoting community**, the focus of this project. A healthy, green, & affordable home, which protects its occupants and promotes a sustainable community is:

1. **Dry:** Moisture from rainwater intrusion, plumbing leaks, faulty combustion appliances, and inadequate ventilation contributes to mold, dust mites, pests, and paint failure.
2. **Ventilated:** Indoor air contaminated by building and household products, combustion appliances, and moisture, needs to be exhausted and diluted.
3. **Clean & Uncluttered:** Contaminants like lead, pesticide residue, allergens, smoke particles, accumulate in dust; clutter makes it hard to clean effectively and can harbor pests.
4. **Free of Contaminants:**
 - Pests & pesticides** – roaches and rodents are sources of potent asthma triggers; pesticides are dangerous to health.

- Combustion by-products** – from faulty combustion appliances can contaminate the air with gases and particulates.
 - Lead hazards**, from paint and soil, causes numerous health problems for young children.
 - Radon** – can seep into homes, increasing the risk of lung cancer
 - Environmental tobacco smoke** imperils the health of all occupants.
 - Other contaminants** derive from building materials and household products, including toxic chemicals in fire retardants, plasticizers.
5. **Free of Accidental Injury Hazards:** fall, fire, electric shock, poisoning, suffocation, etc.
 6. **Well-maintained:** House systems (plumbing, HVAC, stairs & railings, floor surfaces, gutters & downspouts) require on-going monitoring, maintenance, and repair to keep a home safe, healthy secure, and energy-efficient.
 7. **Affordable:** If occupants should spend more than 30% of their household income on housing (rent/mortgage and utilities), nutrition, health care and other necessities are at risk.
 8. **Accessible/Aging-in-place:** The home environment should be designed and/or modified to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible.
 9. **Secure from Intrusion:** Window guards, adequate external lighting, and neighborhood watch programs can protect a home and community from intruders.
 10. **Resilient:** Able to tolerate weather extremes and power failures to keep the occupants safe.
 11. **Green & Sustainable:** Reduced adverse impact on the environment, promotes energy conservation, resource conservation, lowered greenhouse gas emissions.
 12. **Occupants Educated and Invested in Green & Healthy Living:** Residents understand the importance of sustainability and the link between home and health and are willing to be a part of the solution.
 13. **In a Health-promoting Community:** Walkable/bikeable, public transportation, healthy food, access to greenspace, sustainable stormwater management, clean air and water, and the resources to enable people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.

Community Profile

Duck Island is a residential neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio near the corner of W. 25th and the Hope Memorial (Carnegie-Lorain) Bridge, and situated between two of the strongest real estate markets in the city- the Ohio City and Tremont neighborhoods. Duck Island is across the Hope Memorial Bridge from Downtown, bounded on the east by the ridge overlooking the Scranton corridor, the west by Columbus Road, Willey Avenue to the south and the ridge overlooking Carter Road to the north.

Tremont is located directly south of Downtown Cleveland across the Cuyahoga River. Tremont's boundaries include the Cuyahoga River to the North and East, MetroHealth Medical Center to the South and West 25th Street and Columbus Avenue to the West. There are a little over 9,000 residents as well as over ninety small businesses in Tremont. The Tremont West Development Corporation's neighborhood boundaries include Duck Island, although Duck Island is thought of as a separate neighborhood.

Because of its close proximity to Downtown, Ohio City, and Tremont, and its connections to transit and bicycle infrastructure, Duck Island has recently become the target of much developer speculation, making long time (and low income) residents, nervous about how the coming changes will affect them. Despite development in Tremont and Ohio City over the last 15 years, Duck Island has maintained a relatively low profile and has mostly remained disconnected from both

Ohio City and Tremont, its two larger neighbors. Vacant houses and land, abandoned alleys, and the general look of abandonment has impacted attitudes and opinions about this area. This disconnection is largely a result of topography: the neighborhood surrounded on the north, east, and south by a sharply sloping drop-off into the industrial Flats, and on the west by the trench for the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Red Line train. Duck Island is essentially a small plateau surrounded by a green “moat” of underbrush and forestation. Building stock is largely comprised of scattered single-family houses, many nondescript and aging.

Duck Island residents recognize that their neighborhood is likely to become more dense and more prominent than its current state. In September of 2013, Tremont West Community Development Corporation (TWDC) with support from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, engaged Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative at Kent State University (CUDC) to facilitate a community planning process for Duck Island. This planning process is intended to find ways to shape this new development in ways that engages the community and maintains the aspects of the neighborhood most valued by existing residents.

This planning process also presented opportunities to explore and promote the implementation of innovative sustainability initiatives. Recommendations included:

- Development of green alleys
- Strategies for stormwater capture
- Utilization of phytoremediation and wetlands plantings
- Improved hillside linkages
- Greenway connections
- Maintenance issues
- Land use and zoning recommendations
- Park and greenspace improvements
- Security and Safety measures

Duck Island shares many of the same environmental and health problems as other neighborhoods in Cleveland and struggles with the same socio-economic issues. Residents generally lack knowledge and experience with engagement on environmental issues, despite being surrounded by them in this urban, industrial environment.

Environmental Concerns: Duck Island is plagued by virtually all of the environmental health problems of older, urban, low-income, neighborhoods with rampant housing and manufacturing abandonment, deteriorating infrastructure, and general disinvestment:

-Housing: Virtually all (94%) of Duck Island housing was built prior to 1979 and more than half was built pre-1939. The housing is old, poorly maintained and most has lead paint, mold & moisture, pests & pesticides, and accidental injury hazards. Vacancy and distressed housing rates are likely to substantially exceed the Tremont rates of 17% vacancy (2010 census) and 10% distressed housing (2013 NEOCANDO)

-Industrial Facilities: Duck Island is surrounded by numerous older manufacturing sites, major rail lines, and highways, all potential sources of air and land toxic exposures.

-Air Quality: Cuyahoga County is a non-attainment area for particulate matter and ozone air pollution; it ranked 6th for overall common air pollutants among the top U.S. counties (2005); Duck Island is close to multiple air toxics sources identified in USEPA inventories.

- Asthma: No Duck Island-specific asthma prevalence data is available, but we do know that they are exposed to allergic and irritant contaminants in substandard housing and in polluted

outdoor air. By the time they are in high school 25% of Cleveland students have had doctor-diagnosed asthma. Cleveland residents with annual income less than \$25,000 had the highest asthma prevalence in the County.

The disproportionate impacts of unhealthy housing on residents of this neighborhood will continue despite new housing being built in the area, unless a conscious and concerted effort to leverage the new investment is made.

Demographic Data

Census Tract	103.6.02	104.100	104.200
Population	1,969	635	589
% African-American	30%	21%	36%
Poverty Rate	7%	35%	2%
Median Household Income (2010 census)	\$25,983	\$12,538	\$31,544
Housing Built pre-1939	59%	53%	57%
Owner-occupied Housing Units	26%	27%	18%

III. ORGANIZATION'S HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY

Environmental Health Watch (EHW) has been working in the City of Cleveland since 1980 in order to help the public and policy-makers build capacity to address the multiplicity of critical health concerns related to Cleveland's urban and industrial environment. We have managed or provided contract services for multiple environmental-health related public programs that touch the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland and its sub-neighborhood Duck Island, as well as the rest of Cleveland, as described in section V.

EHW has worked with residents of Tremont and with staff of the Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) in recent years through training, education, outreach, and as green construction consultants. In 2011, under the umbrella of Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health, Tremont residents were participants in EHW's *Green Houses and Greenhouses* program, which provided education on home health hazards and energy efficiency.

In 2012 EHW responded to a TWDC issued RFP for "Tremont Green Infill" design proposals, and was awarded a grant funded by Enterprise Community Partners. The goal was to design affordable, yet high performance home plans for Tremont Urban Infill, on existing city owned lots. In 2013 EHW's Matt Berges joined the TWDC Strategic Planning Committee, where the focus was community engagement, sustainable goal setting, and strategy development. Out of this came a 2013-2016 action plan that included the suggestion to create mini master plans for surrounding pockets of Tremont that are in need of improvements, such as Duck Island. Working closely with

TWDC, Berges brought residents, businesses, builders, developers, and city planners, to the table for a number of very productive collaborative planning sessions to connect the many disconnected plans for the area, and to leverage and maximize opportunities for a model Green Community. At the end of 2013, with the financial support of Neighborhood Progress Incorporated (NPI), TWDC put together a Community Planning Charrette, for the Duck Island Neighborhood Plan, which was led by the Kent State Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC). The CUDC facilitated planning charrette brought together a variety of neighborhood stakeholders and residents to create a neighborhood vision for Duck Island.

The Duck Island Neighborhood Planning Process that is currently taking place has produced general recommendations for organizing future development, as well as detailed recommendations regarding neighborhood identity, open space, residential density, infill strategies, housing typologies, safety, and maintenance. A draft plan was shared at a community meeting in January 2014. With this neighborhood planning work already underway, and consensus among residents that a healthier, greener Duck Island is the goal, it is an ideal time to implement collaborative environmental justice practices.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Duck Island Healthy Homes and Neighborhood Initiative will be a neighborhood redevelopment collaborative that brings together community stakeholders (e.g., residents, businesses, churches, institutions, and government agencies) in a collaborative process of data gathering and education, followed by consensus priority-setting and action plan development to address significant environmental and health concerns relating to healthy housing and a health-promoting community in Duck Island. The goal is to develop a sustainable environmental focused collaboration that leverages the resources available to this uniquely situated community.

The Duck Island neighborhood is facing new housing development pressures that have the potential to positively or negatively impact the existing disadvantaged residents. These residents have suffered for many years from the environmental and health impacts of sub-standard housing. We have a unique opportunity to leverage new interest in the neighborhood to address existing health issues related to housing and benefit the environmental health of the entire community. The overall strategy is to develop collaborative action around the vision of a sustainable, green, healthy community, which will result in benefits both for existing residents and for builders, developers, and other stakeholders.

Anticipated Results

- A self-sustaining community-based partnership will be created that will continue to improve local environments and address social, and economic issues in the long-term.
- Existing community input, visioning efforts, and strategic goals will serve as a starting point for further data gathering, community engagement, and consensus on a prioritized action plan to address healthy housing in a health-promoting community.
- Disadvantaged community residents will be empowered to use the data and neighborhood information to influence change in the social, economic, and environmental dynamics of the community.
- Community residents will develop an understanding of all major sources of risk from toxic pollutants and environmental concerns specific to housing and healthy neighborhoods, and will gain an understanding of self-protective actions they can take to reduce their risk of harm,

including connecting with existing resources and programs.

- Stakeholders, including local developers and community groups, will become actively involved with voluntary programs to address the local environmental health concerns.
- Design work will be completed for specific action items related to a health-promoting community and identified in the community plan.
- Health hazards will be reduced in neighborhood homes through direct interventions.
- Additional resources will be obtained to sustain the partnership and carry out the prioritized action plan.

Goals, Activities, Timeline, and Milestones

Goal #1: Engage partner participation (First Quarter)

Activities (Primary Partner Responsible):

- Recruit stakeholders/partners to participate (EHW/TWDC/Councilman Cimperman).
- Conduct leadership building group activities among partners to build cohesion (EHW with Neighborhood Leadership Institute).
- Attend National Conference (EHW).
- Meet with EPA staff for advice, technical assistance (EHW).
- Submit quarterly progress reports (ongoing throughout project) (EHW).
- Establish meeting schedule for primary project partners (All).

Projected Milestones:

- Solidify strong local Neighborhood Redevelopment Collaborative partnership with support of representatives from at least 5 businesses/developers, 5 non-profit organizations/community groups, 1 religious group, 3 government agencies, 1 university, 1 Cleveland school.
- Develop initial contact with EPA staff Primary partners will meet at minimum monthly throughout the course of the project.

Goal #2: Gather Data and Existing Community Input (First Quarter)

Activities (Primary Partner Responsible):

- Ongoing data collection and analysis on different environmental risks in target area (EHW, CUDC).
- Compile data into useable format for public (EHW, CUDC).
- Prepare educational materials (EHW).

Projected Milestones:

- Finalized educational materials for distribution to community (including handouts and power point presentation) that is accessible to public (i.e. accessible reading level, language, comprehension- avoids technical jargon).
- Develop evaluation tools (All).
- Continue to communicate with EPA and other sites for feedback/suggestions (EHW, on- going throughout duration of project).
- Compile existing community input, visioning, and strategic goal setting to date (EHW, CUDC,
- Finalize pre-test/post-test format for community education sessions.
- Preliminary designs for specific elements of the community plan relating to a health promoting community (i.e. stormwater,

Councilman Joe Cimperman)

- Engage consultants to create preliminary specific designs and engineering for elements of the existing community plan (EHW, CUDC)

greenspace)

Goal #3: Disseminate Information to the Public/ Build Community Capacity (2rd and 3rd Quarters)

Activities (Primary Partner Responsible):

- Schedule/host community meetings to distribute information and educate residents on healthy homes (TWDC will schedule the meetings, Councilman Joe Cimperman will help to host).
- Establish a website presence and email list-serve to post information (TWDC, EHW).
- Implement evaluation tools at each meeting.
 - Meet with EPA staff for advice, technical assistance (EHW).
- Facilitate leadership building activities to nurture individual leadership skills as well as ability of group to work together (EHW with Neighborhood Leadership Institute).
- Provide training to TWDC staff on healthy and green housing (EHW, TWDC)
- Solicit community feedback on consultant designs for neighborhood (All)

Projected Milestones:

- 3 meetings will be hosted reaching a minimum of 100 stakeholders.
- Outreach to at least 200 residents through door knocking and flyers.
- Website information on the project will be developed and updated regularly.
- An email list-serve will be developed to communicate updates locally/nationally.
- Compile/review evaluation/feedback.
- Submit data report to EPA
- 3 TWDC staff trained

Goal #4: Build Consensus, Prioritize Risks and Set Priorities for Action (3rd and 4th Quarters)

Activities (Primary Partner Responsible):

- Modify/adapt prioritizing tools for local community use (All).
- Schedule/host meetings to analyze environmental problems, risks, and potential solutions (TWDC will schedule, Councilman Cimperman will host).
- Rank the issues/risks (All) using the nominal group technique for decision making
- Develop list of priorities for action to address environmental justice issues in Duck Island. (All). This list will be chosen from 1) action items in the existing Duck Island Neighborhood Plan and 2) new action items identified at the public meetings that focus on healthy housing in a health-promoting

Projected Milestones:

- 3 meetings will be hosted for prioritizing sessions.
- Finalize list of priority issues and actions/solutions; include list of voluntary programs that will be utilized.
- Develop action plan based upon the top priorities identified by the project collaborative drafted during community prioritization.
- A list of lessons learned will be developed and shared with EPA and other programs.
Seek opportunities to leverage funding

community.

- Select voluntary programs that will be utilized (All).

- Begin taking action on priority issues (All).
- Evaluate and track progress, discuss lessons learned (All).
- Develop detailed work plan and semi-annual milestones for second year.
- Work to leverage funds.
Meet with EPA staff for advice, technical assistance (EHW).

Goal #5: Continue Community Engagement around Healthy Housing and Implement Prioritized Action Steps (5th – 8th Quarters)

Activities (Primary Partner Responsible):

- Implement prioritized project (s) chosen by the community from 1) action items in the existing Duck Island Neighborhood Plan and 2) new action items identified at the public meetings that focus on healthy housing in a health-promoting community. (All).
- Work with residents engaged in project in first year to conduct further education and implement low-level healthy home interventions in their homes (EHW)

Projected Milestones:

- Implementation of prioritized project (s)
- Reduction of health hazards in 25 homes

Alignment with the Collaborative Model

Element 1: Issue Identification, Community Vision, and Strategic Goal Setting – EHW and the key project partners have already been recently involved in a community planning process for Duck Island, which identified issues, created a vision, and set strategic goals for the neighborhood. Building on the completed work, we will engage the community to dive deeper into the key environmental justice issues pertaining to healthy housing and neighborhoods and further refine the community vision and goals relating to these issues. **Element 2: Community Capacity-Building and Leadership Development** – We will provide education and outreach to community residents to disseminate information on healthy housing and connect residents with existing programmatic and leadership development resources. We will also provide training to TWDC staff on healthy and green housing. **Element 3: Consensus Building and Dispute Resolution** – We will bring together diverse stakeholders including developers, businesses, community groups, city officials, and residents at a series of meetings to develop a specific prioritized action plan. **Element 4: Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Leveraging of Resources** – The recent influx of planned new redevelopment projects by private developers represents significant investment in the neighborhood that needs to be leveraged for the benefit of all the residents. Through outreach and facilitated meetings this project will build essential

partnerships that will be able to leverage these resources. **Element 5: Constructive Engagement by Relevant Stakeholders** – Building on the recent energy and engagement of residents and stakeholders in a community visioning process, we will engage new partners and facilitate continued discussion between stakeholders in order to work together to implement specific action steps to improve the health of housing in the neighborhood. **Element 6: Sound Management and Implementation** – EHW and our key partners have the extensive experience in collaborative efforts and project administration and management that will ensure the planned activities are implemented. **Element 7: Evaluation, Lessons Learned, and Replication of Best Practices** – Evaluation processes such as pre and post testing at education sessions, solicited feedback on community meetings, and tracking of project milestones and benchmarks will be incorporated into the project. Between the key partners we have extensive national networks in public health, healthy housing, academic research, and community planning, and local community development networks through which we will disseminate lessons learned and best practices.

Increasing the Capacity of the Community

We will increase the capacity of the community to address healthy housing issues through outreach, engagement, education, training, and collaborative consensus building between different community groups, as described in the chart above. Residents will be empowered through increased knowledge and by building relationships with diverse community stakeholders. We will build on EHW's experience with the EPA CARE program and its recommended strategies to increase community capacity. We will identify vulnerable groups within the community that may not have been reached to participate in the previous community planning sessions. We will train community members in these groups to assume leadership roles in the project to reach others similarly situated. Emphasis will be on translating technical data into accessible language, tabular formats, graphic images and other aides to comprehension. EHW is also familiar with ranking issues and setting priorities for action to reduce risk using the tools from the PACE EH model Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health.

We will link with on-going city-wide and community-wide action and advocacy activities, providing concrete benefits and vehicles for action by community participants. These on-going activities include programs for home energy conservation and efficiency (reducing local pollution, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, shrinking utility bills); community gardens and farmers markets; and reducing exposure to lead hazards, asthma triggers and pesticides. EHW's role managing the City's HUD Healthy Homes Production Grant and providing education and outreach services for the City and County Lead Hazard Control Grants will help us to connect residents directly with these services.

How The Key Partners Will Work Together

The specific responsibilities of each of the main partners for the key project tasks are identified under the Goals, Activities, Timeline, and Milestones section above. Environmental Health Watch along with the three primary partners will work to engage additional community stakeholders throughout the program process.

Environmental Health Watch (EHW)'s mission and programs are described in section V. The EHW staff has a combined tenure of over 45 years with the organization and has attained extensive expertise in the development and execution of home hazard assessment and control programs. Building upon their experience in the field, EHW will take the lead in facilitating the program and a primary role in the process of helping stakeholders understand the range of environmental pollutants that exist in our community, the harm that they can cause, and

the major sources of exposure. EHW routinely collaborates with other organizations to devise, assess, demonstrate and promote programs to prevent and reduce exposures to harmful substances indoors and outdoors that cause or aggravate serious health conditions and advocate for social equity in local policy development. As the primary applicant, EHW will have responsibility for administering the grant.

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) is a non-profit community development Corporation serving the Tremont neighborhood. TWDC works to serve these populations with community building, neighborhood infrastructure improvements, home maintenance and repair and events planning and management. For the past 30 years TWDC has been working with residents, business owners and other community partners including the City of Cleveland to make Tremont a dynamic community, and has successfully made Tremont a premier neighborhood in the City of Cleveland. TWDC works closely with, and supports a strong network of active block clubs that meet regularly to manage issues impacting the neighborhood. Duck Island has its own block club that operates within this network. TWDC will use its established relationship with community residents to recruit participation in our project, and has a vested interest in the long term sustainability of the project.

Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC) is an innovative, non-profit urban design practice committed to a sustainable, vibrant and inclusive urban future. The CUDC is the combined home of the urban design graduate program at Kent State University and the public service activities of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. The CUDC's professional staff of designers are committed to improving the quality of urban spaces through technical design assistance, research and advocacy. Supported by the university and private philanthropy, the CUDC offers architectural and urban design expertise in the service of urban communities, design professionals, and non-profit and academic partners in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Hired by TWDC to facilitate the creation of the Duck Island Neighborhood Plan, CUDC has earned the trust of community members and has been instrumental in gathering community input, facilitating conversations, and identifying funding sources for potential improvement projects. For this project, CUDC will continue to provide a facilitation role and to contribute academic research and design expertise. CUDC also brings extensive knowledge of greening and stabilization strategies for vacant land use.

Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman - Currently serving his seventh term on Cleveland City Council, Councilman Joe Cimperman is a senior member of the body and is highly regarded by his constituents, and peers, for his work ethic and ability to build meaningful bridges to tackle important issues relevant to Ward 3 and the City of Cleveland. Councilman Cimperman serves as the Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee and is a member of the Development, Planning and Sustainability and Safety Committees on Cleveland City Council. Most recently, Councilman Cimperman has been known for spearheading Cleveland's nationally recognized urban agriculture movement and he has been instrumental in the Healthy Cleveland Initiative, collaboration between the City's four major hospital systems to improve the health and wellness of Clevelanders. Councilman Cimperman believes that that conditions in the natural, built, and social environments contribute to poor health. He advocates for improvements that can be achieved by developing policies and strategies that integrate health into land use planning, neighborhood revitalization, redevelopment, and community design. For this project Councilman Cimperman will be instrumental in engaging relevant business and development stakeholders and potentially providing financial resources for long-term implementation of prioritized actions.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY

EHW's mission is to offer information, assistance and advocacy to help people protect themselves from significant environmental threats and to influence corporate, government and personal actions to promote human health and environmental sustainability, avoiding both imprudent complacency and unnecessary alarm. EHW devises, assesses, demonstrates and promotes programs to prevent and reduce human exposure to harmful substances indoors and outdoors that cause or aggravate serious health conditions. EHW's programs activities are concentrated in three substantive areas: health hazards in the indoor environment, outdoor air pollution, and affordable green housing.

EHW has been in operation since 1980 and has the staffing (7 FTEs, 3 PTEs), financial management, organizational and programmatic capabilities and resources to successfully carry-out this project. EHW has successfully completed research, demonstration, education, and policy development projects funded directly by USEPA, HUD Office of Health Homes and Lead Hazard Control, and the CDC Healthy House Branch. EHW has been a contracted partner on similar projects with the Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cuyahoga County Health District, Department of Environmental Health Sciences - CWRU School of Medicine, American Lung Association, National Center for Healthy Housing, Department of Environmental Health - University of Cincinnati, and others.

Financial Capacity: EHW has a fully functioning fiscal accounting system utilizing Intuit's Quickbooks accounting software. We maintain a part-time bookkeeper and consultant accountant and are fully compliant with OMB Circular A-133 requirements.

Past Performance on Environmental Outreach, Education & Capacity Building:

Providing outreach, education and building neighborhood capacity on environmental health issues is at the core of our programming. EHW offers education to a variety of audiences, through a multitude of media, in a variety of settings. Our primary audience is people living in substandard housing, but also includes the general public, health and housing professionals, and public officials. Our educational approach is based on health literacy principles and utilizes plain language, culturally appropriate, and low-literacy-accessible materials. We utilize printed material, classroom instruction, structured discussions, hands-on training, demonstrations, video presentations, field trips, and our website <ehw.org>.

Much of our work is done via in-home visits, when we work with occupants to help them learn to identify housing health hazards and energy reduction opportunities. We have conducted monthly Saturday education meetings (with childcare and refreshments) focused on childhood lead poisoning and asthma. And, for our EPA CARE project, Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health, we hold monthly neighborhood meetings, at which we discuss health green housing issues. All three of these education modalities will be utilized for Healthy Homes and Neighborhood Initiative for Cleveland's Duck Island (DI).

EHW Current and Recent USEPA Projects:

- ***Rid-All Youth Farmers Leadership Project - USEPA Assistance Agreement*** (#EQ00E01199). \$37,100.00 awarded 2013; recipient: EHW; funded partners: Rid-All Green Partnership. EPA contacts: Sharon Lowery-Martin and Kimberly Houston-Williams. The Rid-All Youth Farmers Leadership Project aims to increase food access, decrease health disparities,

improve water quality, and implement storm water management solutions. By targeting the youth, we aim to nurture and grow the future leaders of urban farming and environmental stewardship. Core program components include intensive, hands-on technical training, educational workshops and leadership development activities, site selection and implementation of two community gardens in the targeted CARE/NLEH communities (Mt. Pleasant, Buckeye, Woodland, Central and Fairfax). Students have the opportunity to design, create and plant two community gardens utilizing permaculture principles. Participants will also be actively involved in sampling of soils and water, data collection, data analysis and have the ability to interpret and communicate results.

- ***Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health (NLEH) - USEPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Cooperative Agreement*** (#RE-00E92901-0). \$100,000 awarded 2009; recipient: EHW; funded partners: Neighborhood Leadership Institute, Earth Day Coalition and Cleveland Clean Air Campaign. EPA contacts: Martha Robinson and Margaret Millard. NLEH brought together community stakeholders in a collaborative process of data-gathering and education, consensus priority-setting, and action plan development, to address significant environmental concerns in Buckeye and three other contiguous inner-city neighborhoods of Cleveland. The goal was to develop a sustainable environmental justice partnership to support on-going education and action. Progress: The project received a no-cost extension and was successfully completed. NLEH continues to function as a focus for environmental justice community organizing.
- ***Environmental Health Risks in Low-Income, Multi-Family Rental Housing (Tenants for Healthy Housing) - U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement*** (#83346801). \$100,000 awarded 2007 (3 years). Recipient: Cleveland Tenants Organization; EHW funded partner. EPA contact: Lisa Hammond. *Tenants for Healthy Housing Project* educated and organized low-income tenants living in subsidized, multi-family rental apartment buildings to address indoor environmental health hazards (e.g., pests, pesticide exposure, mold, ETS). The project was successfully completed in October, 2010 after a 6 month no-cost extension. Materials developed for the project continue to be used for other EHW activities.

EHW Current and Recent HUD Office of Healthy Homes Projects: *Warm and Healthy Homes for Cleveland* – U.S. Department of HUD (#OHHHP0001-11). EHW is the grantee on a three year collaborative grant which brings together the **Cleveland Department of Community Development, Case Western Reserve Medical School**, a number of Greater Cleveland weatherization agencies, **the Greater Cleveland Healthy Home Advisory Council (GCHHAC)** and others to implement the \$1 million, 3-year HUD Healthy House Production Grant. Grant activities began in October 2011 and EHW has overall responsibility for design and implementation of the project, recruiting the participant organizations, assembling the match commitments (\$541,000), and preparing the application. To bring the healthy house strategy up to scale, *Warm & Healthy Homes for Cleveland* is using the City of Cleveland's weatherization program as the platform on which to combine healthy, safe and green interventions within a single cost-effective program. *Weatherization touches more homes in Cleveland than any other direct housing assistance program.* The project is on schedule and has received a most recent quarterly score of 99/100 (Green).

- ***Remote Monitoring of Home Air Quality for Comparison of Energy Star and Deep Energy Retrofits (Deep Green and Healthy Housing) - HUD Healthy & Green Technical Study*** (#OHLHH0203-09): \$650,000/3 years; funded partners: Cleveland Housing Network, Department of Environmental Health Sciences-CWRU School of Medicine, Intwine Connects

(local technology firm). This project compares two types of home energy-efficiency approaches on energy reduction, indoor air quality, and cost. IAQ and energy use are measured by remote monitors throughout the homes which transmit data wireless to remote servers during 12-months of occupancy. Cleveland Housing Network renovated 12 inner-city homes, six to DOE Energy Star standards and six to EHW's Deep Energy Retrofits specifications (superinsulation, air-tightness, balanced ventilation, and low-lead heating). The project completed on-time (October 2013) and met all performance benchmarks.

Staffing Expertise/Qualifications: Project staff are listed below with brief sketch; resumes are provided for three staff. Combined qualifications include certifications for Asthma Educator, LEED Professional, and Healthy House Practitioner; licenses include Lead Risk Assessor, Pest Control Technician, and Lead Abatement Contractor; master's degrees in Urban Planning and Environmental Studies. Other training includes Growing Power's Commercial Agriculture Training Program, Enterprise Green Communities Technical Assistance Team, and Waste Water Management.

EHW Staff Assigned to the Project:



Mike Piepsny, Kim Foreman, Matt Berges, Mandy Metcalf, Fatima Allen

- **Matt Berges**, EHW's Green Housing Manager, will serve as the **Project Manager**. Matt's qualifications are described in section VI.
- **Mike Piepsny**, EHW Executive Director, maintains overall responsibility for agency fiscal management and project implementation. Mike received his B.A. in political science from Cleveland State University in 1994 and his J.D. from the Cleveland Marshall School of Law in 1997. He joined EHW as Executive Director in May of 2012 after serving as the executive director of the Cleveland Tenants Organization for seven years. Under Mike's stewardship of CTO, he preserved and strengthened one of the most respected housing rights and social justice organizations in the country. CTO was recognized by the Center for Community Solutions and the Cleveland Foundation and awarded the 2009 Anisfield-Wolf Memorial award, largely considered the most prestigious award a local non-profit is eligible to receive.
- **Kim Foreman**, EHW Associate Director, will assist with overall project management and coordination with the other partners. In addition Kim will have primary responsibility for healthy housing education, based on her 11 years of experience with EHW educating a range of audiences on lead poisoning, asthma triggers, and other housing health hazards. Kim is the Project Manager for *Rid-All Youth Farmers Leadership Project*. Kim is a Licensed Lead Risk Assessor, Certified Asthma Educator, and Certified Healthy Home Practitioner.
- **Mandy Metcalf** joined EHW in 2008 as the Director of EHW's Affordable Green Housing Center. Mandy has an Urban Planning master's degree and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Resource Management. Mandy's past jobs include Director of the Cleveland EcoVillage and planner for the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative. Mandy is a LEED Accredited Professional. Mandy brings to the project her experience and expertise on green building and green communities and will be primarily responsible for educating builders, contractors, developers, planners, and community leaders.

- **Fatima Allen**, EHW Research and Data Manager, will be the project's data manager and educational materials specialist. Fatima has a BA and MA in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Environmental Policy and is a Licensed Lead Risk Assessor.

Resources

Essentially all of the resources needed to effectively carry-out and successfully complete the project are available through EHW and the three committed partner organizations. These resources include: match funds (foundation grants awarded), qualified staff, management (financial, data, personnel, grants), educational materials, web sites, and meeting sites. All three partner organizations are active participants in numerous coalitions, networks, and projects that can be sources of additional resources such as technical expertise, access to model materials, others that may emerge as the project progresses.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PROJECT MANAGER (PM)

Matt Berges, EHW's Green Housing Manager, helped establish EHW's Affordable Green Housing Center. He is a Certified Healthy House Practitioner and BPI Certified Building Analyst. Matt presents educational sessions and trainings including EHW's Greening Your Home series, a Deep Energy Reduction Forum, and Green Communities Rater trainings. He has served as an instructor for Cuyahoga Community College, developing a 40-hour curriculum on energy efficient home construction. Matt provides design review, technical assistance, and on-site construction review for affordable green housing projects, including the Community Land Trust's Green Cottages Project and the Deep Green and Healthy Demonstration Project with Cleveland Housing Network. Matt brings to EHW a strong background as a green builder and home rehabilitation specialist. In addition to his full time work at EHW, Matt takes on select building and renovation projects that demonstrate high performance green home construction techniques, through his own company, Berges LLC.

Matt led EHW's work on the Enterprise Community Partners grant to TWDC. The assignment was to develop affordable housing plans that that could be used on the many vacant lots scattered throughout the Tremont neighborhood, including Duck Island. The goal was for TWDC to be able to offer for sale options, with the performance upgrades that make the homes "Green", and affordable to live in too. Matt also presented an educational session as part of EHW's Greenhouses and Greenhouses work with TWDC.

Matt lives in the Duck Island neighborhood and builds homes in the neighborhood through Berges, LLC. Matt served on the Tremont West Strategic Planning Committee throughout 2013, and remains involved with TWDC development efforts. In addition to being active in the Duck Island Block Club (as a resident), his company, along with EHW is a primary partner in the Duck Island Development Collaborative (DIDC), a private-sector-led effort utilizing shared resources to improve the quality of life for the current and future residents of Duck Island. DIDC is working to make Duck island a definitive example of sustainable city living in Cleveland, Ohio.

VII. PAST PERFORMANCE IN REPORTING ON OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

The list of EHW's relevant past grants is provided in section V. EHW has remained in compliance with all performance benchmarks and reporting requirements for each grant and each contract awarded. For all grants, progress has been charted and reported using the recommended outputs/outcomes outlined in the proposals and/or grant contract requirements.

VIII. EXPENDITURE OF AWARDED GRANT FUNDS

Project Performance Measures and *Timeline* provided in the attachments, and our *logic model*, will guide the project activities and ensure that all project components are meeting project objectives. The Timeline establishes benchmarks for activities and outputs. We will use a *management information system* to track activities and outputs and compare them with benchmarks. At monthly project partner meetings, activities, outputs and benchmarks will be monitored, deviations analyzed, and, as needed, changes made to ensure timely and completed outputs and expenditures.

IX. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN (QAPP) INFORMATION

We believe our project will involve the use of existing environmental data or the collection of new data, so we will be required to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan.